

G.E. Graven Style Guide (Addendum Rules)

Constructed: August 31, 2026 ~ Susan Kelleher

Dedication

To **Edgar Allan Poe**, whose shadow looms large over the Gothic tradition, inspiring a reverence for the macabre, the sublime, and the cosmic moral gravity that defines this work.

Introduction

This guide elucidates the stylistic, thematic, and tonal principles underpinning the literary voice of G.E. Graven's, ***Grotesque, A Gothic Epic***. It is designed to maintain fidelity to a medieval-epic Gothic archetype suffused with scriptural gravitas and operatic solemnity.

1. Tone and Voice

•Solemn and Grave

The narrative voice is consistently serious, devoid of irony or levity, evoking a sense of reverence and dread.

•Operatic and Elevated

Language should soar with grandeur, employing a period-conscious vocabulary rich in ecclesiastical and archaic terms.

•Cosmic Moral Seriousness

Themes revolve around eternal and cosmic struggles between Light and Darkness, Good and Evil, Order and Chaos.

2. Vocabulary and Diction

•Ecclesiastical and Archaic Lexicon

Use words such as sanctified, threnody, charnel, seraphic, absolution, penitent, eldritch, hierophant, and numinous.

•Elevated Syntax

Favour complex, cumulative sentences balanced with crisp, purposeful dialogue.

•Capitalization

Capitalize all supernatural beings, titles, and divine or infernal entities (e.g., The Archangel, The Abyss, The Covenant).

3. Signature Techniques

- Nature as Harbinger**

Employ natural elements—storms, shadows, animal cries—as omens or symbolic presences.

- Scale Contrast**

Juxtapose the colossal (vast cathedrals, cosmic forces) with the intimate (a whispered prayer, a trembling hand).

- Sensory Layering**

Weave sounds, smells, textures, and visual motifs into the scene to deepen immersion.

- Mythological Density**

Allusions to ancient mythos, biblical archetypes, and forgotten lore enrich the narrative fabric.

- Atmospheric Dread**

Create a persistent undercurrent of unease, a dread that permeates the world itself.

- World-as-Argument**

The setting and cosmology embody the thematic conflicts, serving as a stage for moral and metaphysical debate.

4. Prose Rhythm and Structure

- Long, Cumulative Sentences**

Use flowing, layered sentences to build atmosphere and weight. Address all senses in opening scenes or beats.

- Crisp Dialogue**

Dialogue should be sharp, purposeful, often laden with double meaning or spiritual weight.

- British-Adjacent Punctuation**

Employ the Oxford comma and semicolons judiciously; prefer ‘-ise’ endings; use single quotation marks primarily but double for quotations within quotations.

5. Thematic Pillars

- Solemnity and Reverence**

Treat all subject matter with a profound respect for its spiritual and cosmic significance.

- Moral and Cosmic Dualities**

Central conflicts reflect eternal struggles of good vs evil, light vs darkness, salvation vs damnation.

- Literary Grandeur**

The narrative should aspire to a timeless quality, echoing the cadence of sacred scripture and epic poetry.

6. Visual and Symbolic Elements (for Reference)

- Gothic Architecture**

Vaulted ceilings, flying buttresses, stained glass windows symbolizing divine light and shadow.

- Characters** Adorned in medieval garb, leather, or armour, crude robes for peasants or noble attire for dignitaries.

- Monastic Catacombs**

Dark, labyrinthine spaces representing hidden knowledge, death, and the passage between worlds.

- Landscapes and Scenery**

Dark and mysterious spaces, foreboding or ominous scenery, incorporation of the sublime or grandiose, unclean or harsh environments, decay, dilapidation, and ruin. Heavy contrast between light and darkness, good and evil, spiritual and existential components.

- Mystic Symbolism**

Crosses, sigils, ancient runes, and celestial bodies as visual motifs that reinforce themes of power, fate, and the supernatural.

7. Additional Rules

- Modern slang or colloquialisms are forbidden; maintain period authenticity.
 - Irony is forbidden. Traditional pathetic fallacy (projection of human emotions on nature) is forbidden, since nature affects characters but does not reflect their emotions.
 - Use metaphor and simile sparingly, but potently when evoking grandeur.
 - Enhance narrative and dialogue with subtext rooted in the spiritual, or cosmic stakes, and embellish descriptions with medieval period flavour, (employing terminology and description in word suggestions evoking Middle Ages knights, castles, kings, priests, church, rituals, serfs and peasantry, environments, etc.)
 - Maintain consistency in capitalization and punctuation to preserve the elevated style.
 - Balance descriptive prose with narrative momentum to avoid heaviness.
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Closing Reflection

Writing in the style of G.E. Graven's, **Grotesque** demands not only technical skill but a mindset attuned to the solemn gravitas of the Gothic tradition. Let every word echo with the weight of cosmic consequence and every sentence resonate as a liturgical chant to the eternal struggle.

End of Style Guide Addendum